

ordinances of '87? Not at all; they did it by virtue of their right as freemen under the Constitution of the United States to establish and abolish such institutions as they thought their own good required.

Let me ask you where have you succeeded in excluding slavery by an act of Congress from one inch of the American soil? You may tell me that you did it in the northwest territory by the ordinance of 1787. I will show you by the history of the country that you did not accomplish any such thing. You prohibited slavery there by law, but you did not exclude it in fact. Illinois was a part of the northwest territory. With the exception of a few French and white settlements, it was a vast wilderness, filled with hostile savages, when the ordinance of 1787 was adopted. Yet, sir, when Illinois was organized into a territorial government it established and protected slavery, and maintained it in spite of your ordinance, and in defiance of its express prohibition. It is a curious fact, that so long as Congress said the territory of Illinois should not have slavery, she actually had it; and on the very day when you withdrew your congressional prohibition, the people of Illinois, of their own free will and accord, provided for a system of emancipation.

Thus you did not succeed in Illinois Territory with your ordinance or your Wilnot proviso, because the people there regarded it as an invasion of their rights. They regarded it as a usurpation on the part of the Federal Government. They regarded it as violative of the great principles of self-government, and they determined that they would never submit even to have freedom so long as you forced it upon them.

Nor must it be said that slavery was abolished in the constitution of Illinois in order to be admitted into the Union, as a State, in compliance with the ordinance of 1787, for they did no such thing. In the constitution with which the people of Illinois were admitted into the Union, they absolutely violated, disregarded, and repudiated your ordinance. The ordinance said that slavery should be forever prohibited in that country. The constitution with which you received them into the Union as a state said that all slaves then in the State should remain slaves for life, and that all persons born of slave parents after a certain day should be free at a certain age, and that all persons born in the State after a certain other day should be free from the time of their birth. Thus their State constitution, as well as their territorial legislation, repudiated your ordinance. Illinois, therefore, is a case in point to prove that whenever you have attempted to dictate institutions to any part of the United States, you have failed.—The same is true, though not to the same extent, with reference to the Territory of Indiana, where there were many slaves during the time of its territorial existence; and I believe also there were a few in the Territory of Ohio.

But, sir, these Abolition confederates in their manifesto, have also referred to the wonderful results of their policy in the State of Iowa and the Territory of Minnesota. Here again they happen to be in fault as to the laws of the land. The act to organize the Territory of Iowa did not prohibit slavery, but the people of Iowa were allowed to do as they pleased under the territorial government; for the sixth section of that act provided that the legislative authority should extend to all rightful subjects of legislation, except as to the disposition of the public lands, and taxes in certain cases, but not excepting slavery. It may, however, be said by some that slavery was prohibited in Iowa by virtue of that clause in the Iowa act which declared the laws of Wisconsin to be in force therein, inasmuch as the ordinance of 1787 was one of the laws of Wisconsin. If, however, they say this, they defeat their object, because the very clause which transfers the laws of Wisconsin to Iowa, and makes them of force therein, also provides that those laws are subject to be altered, modified or repealed by the Territorial Legislature of Iowa. Iowa, therefore, was left to do as she pleased. Iowa, when she came to form a constitution and State government, was paralytic to admission into the Union, considered the subject of free and slave institutions calmly, dispassionately, without any restraint or dictation, and determined that it would be to the interest of her people in their climate, and with their productions, to prohibit slavery, and hence Iowa became a free State by virtue of this great principle of allowing the people to do as they please, and not in obedience to any federal command.

The Abolitionists are also in the habit of referring to Oregon as another instance of the triumph of their abolition policy. There again they have overlooked or misrepresented the history of the country. Sir, it is well known, or if it is not, it ought to be, that for about twenty years you failed to give Oregon any government or any protection; and during that period the inhabitants of that country established a government of their own, and by virtue of their own laws, passed by their own representatives before you extended your jurisdiction over them, prohibited slavery by a unanimous vote. Slavery was prohibited there by the action of the people themselves, and not by virtue of any legislation of Congress.

It is true that in the midst of the tornado which swept over the country in 1848, 1849, and 1850, a provision was forced into the Oregon bill prohibiting slavery in that Territory; but that only goes to show that the object of those who pressed it was not so much to establish free institutions as to gain a political advantage by giving an ascendancy to their peculiar doctrines, in the laws of the lands for slavery having been already prohibited there, and no man proposing to establish it, what was the necessity for insulting the people of Oregon by saying in your law that they should not do that which they had unanimously said they did not wish to do? That was the only effect of your legislation, so far as the Territory of Oregon was concerned.

How was it in regard to California? Every one of these abolition confederates who have thus arraigned me and the Committee on Territories before the country, who have misrepresented our position, and misquoted the law and the fact, predicted that unless Congress interposed by law, and prohibited slavery in California, it would inevitably become a slave-holding State. Congress did not interfere; Congress did not prohibit slavery. There was no enactment upon the subject; but the people formed a State constitution, and then prohibited slavery.

Mr. WALKER. The vote was unanimous in the convention of California, prohibition.

Mr. DOUGLAS. So it was in regard to Utah and New Mexico. In 1850, we who resisted any attempt to force institutions upon the people of those Territories, inconsistent with their wishes and their right to decide for themselves, were denounced as slavery propagandists. Every one of us who was in favor of the compromise measures of 1850 was arraigned for having advocated a principle proposing to introduce slavery into those Territories; and that people were told, and made to believe, that unless we prohibited it by act of Congress, slavery would necessarily and inevitably be introduced into those Territories.

Well, sir, we did establish the territorial governments of Utah and New Mexico without any prohibition. We gave to these Abolitionists a full opportunity of proving whether their predictions were true or false. Years have rolled round, and the result is before us. The people there have not passed any law recognizing, or establishing, or introducing, or protecting slavery in the Territories.

I know of but one Territory of the United States where slavery does exist, and that one is where you have prohibited it by law, and it is this very Nebraska Territory. In defiance of the eighth section of the act of 1820, in defiance of Congressional dictation, there have been, not many but a few slaves introduced. I heard a minister of the Gospel the other day conversing with a member of the Committee on Territories upon this subject. This preacher was from that country; and a member put this question to him: "Have you any negro out there?" He said there was a few held by the Indians. I asked him if there were not

some held by white men? He said there were a few, under peculiar circumstances, and he gave an instance: An abolition missionary, a very good man, had gone there from Boston, and he took his wife with him. He got out into the country, but could not get any help; hence he, being a kind-hearted man, went down to Missouri, and gave \$1,000 for a negro, and took him up there as "help." [Laughter.] So, under peculiar circumstances, when these Free Soil and Abolition preachers and missionaries go into the country, they can buy a negro for their own use, but they do not like to allow any one else to do the same thing. [Renewed laughter.] I suppose the fact of the matter is simply this: There the people can get no servants—no "help," as they are called in the section of country where I was born—and, from the necessity of the case, they must do the best they can, and for this reason a few slaves have been taken there. I have no doubt that whether you organize the Territory of Nebraska or not, this will continue for some time to be the case, and it will increase as long as the Missouri compromise applies to the Territory; and I suppose it will continue for a little while during their territorial condition, whether a prohibition is imposed or not. But when settlers rush in—when labor becomes plenty, and therefore cheap, in that climate, with its productions, it is worse than folly to think of its being a slave-holding country. I do not believe there is a man in Congress who thinks it could be permanently a slaveholding country. I have no idea that it could. All I have to say on that subject is, that when you create them into a Territory, you there, by acknowledging that they ought to be considered a distinct political organization. And when you give them in addition a Legislature, you thereby give them the power to exercise the powers of legislation. If they wish slavery they have a right to it. If they do not want it they will not have it, and you should not force it upon them. I do not like, I never did like, the system of legislation on our part, by which a geographical line, in violation of the laws of nature, and climate, and soil, and of the laws of God, should be run to establish institutions for a people; yet, out of respect for the peace and quiet of the country, and to adhere faithfully to all compromises, sustained the Missouri compromise so long as it was in force, and advocated its extension to the Pacific. Now, when that has been abandoned, when it has been superseded, when a great principle of self-government has been substituted for it, I choose to cling to that principle, and abide in good faith, not only by the latter, but by the spirit of the last compromise.

[Concluded on fourth page.]

## THE PORTAGE SENTINEL. RAVENNA OHIO.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1854.

Democratic State Ticket for 1854.

FOR SUPREME JUDGE,  
**SHEPARD F. NORRIS,**  
Of Clermont County.  
FOR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS,  
**ALEXANDER P. MILLER,**  
Of Butler County.

MR. DOUGLAS' SPEECH.—We publish the speech of Senator Douglas on the Nebraska Bill in full in our paper to-day, and commend it to the careful perusal and candid consideration of our readers. His motives in introducing that bill, as well as all those who support the measure, have been impugned, and it is just that he should be heard in his own justification.

✧ We have received another communication on the subject of the Nebraska Bill from our correspondent "Pro Bone Publico," but are compelled to defer its publication till next week when it will receive attention.

THANKS.—We are indebted to Messrs. CHASE and DOUGLAS, of the U. S. Senate for speeches and documents. Also to Mr. COCHRAN, for legislative documents.

SCHOOLS.—We understand that the Boards of Education of the township and village of Ravenna met together on Saturday last and agreed to submit to a vote of the people, at a special election to be held on the 27 day of March next, the proposition to raise \$6,000 by taxation upon the property of the township and village for the purpose of erecting suitable buildings for High Schools for the joint accommodation of the scholars of the township and village.

SPIRITUAL MEETING.—We are requested to announce that Hon. Warren Chase, of Wisconsin, will speak at the Universalist Church on Saturday evening and Sunday next, on the subject of the Spiritual Philosophy.

FATAL ACCIDENT.—A German laborer, whose name we did not learn, was killed by the falling of a bank of earth, on Saturday last, between here and Lake Pepin, on the Franklin & Warren Railroad. The particulars we did not learn.

PUBLIC MEETING.—We have received a Call signed by some 40 or 50 citizens, for a meeting of the people of the county, without distinction of party, on Friday Feb'y 24th, for the purpose of expressing the sentiment of the people of the county touching the Nebraska Bill, now before the U. S. Senate. The call was received at so late and hour that we are unable to insert it.

HARPER FOR FEBRUARY, handsomely illustrated, just received at Hall's Book Store.

FILLING UP.—The Phoenix Block is beginning to be filled up. Messrs. GRIFFIN & BOSTWICK have removed their Furniture Ware Room into the second story of Gen. McINTOSH's part of the building. Messrs. GREEN & STOW have removed their Melodeon Manufactory into the third story directly over the Furniture Room of Messrs. GRIFFIN & BOSTWICK; and we understand that Messrs. J. H. BOSTWICK & Co., of Campbell-Park, intend moving into the Store adjoining the Hardware Store of E. T. RICHARDSON, in the East end of the Block the coming week. Drs. REED & HARRIS, Dentists, will open their office in the second story in the East end of the Block in a few days; and we intend to take up our quarters in the rooms in the third story at the east end of the Block, in the course of two weeks. Thus will the rooms in that part of the Block be occupied. The work on the other parts of the building is progressing as rapidly as the state of the weather will permit. When spring opens it will be pretty much all finished and occupied, and present the most business-like appearance of any part of the town.

✧ The House of Representatives of Georgia, have passed a bill removing seat of government from Milledgeville to Macon.

## Nebraska—Slavery.

The abolition opponents of Douglas Nebraska Bill predicate their opposition to allowing the people to exercise their sovereignty and self-government upon the assumption that if such permission be given slavery will be established in the territories of Nebraska and Kansas. There have always been a class of very intelligent, patriotic people in this country, who have doubted the capacity of the people to understand their own wants and provide for their own necessities, and who on account of their own superior intelligence, virtue and patriotism, have imagined themselves ordained and commissioned to exercise a guardian care over them, and see that the people did not do themselves harm. Such men existed in the early history of the country, and three-quarters of a century has not served to inspire them with confidence in the ability of the people to manage their own affairs and provide for their own wants, and they now manifest their distrust by expressions of groundless fears that the people will do themselves an irreparable injury by planting slavery in Nebraska if they be permitted to control their own affairs in this respect. They have always manifested this distrust of the people whenever the proposition has been made to acknowledge their right and their power. It was no less expressed in fanatical fears when California was admitted into the Union and territorial governments organized for New Mexico and Utah, with the confirmation of the right of the people to control their own municipal affairs. Every one now sees how utterly groundless were those fears; and not less so are those in reference to Nebraska. The assumption that slavery will go into these Territories if this bill is passed is unsustained by a single fact or argument. Nor have we the charity to believe that the ultra, fanatical agitators think so themselves.

Looking over the whole ground, taking into consideration the climate, soil and situation of Nebraska, the certainty that it will be settled by men of the North and those fleeing from the oppression of Europe; and, more than all, in view of the decisions of the U. S. Supreme Court, that slavery cannot exist without positive legislation to sustain it, we consider it morally impossible that any advantage can be gained by slavery from the passage of the bill. Will a slaveholder take his property into a territory every way unsuited to slave labor, with so much excitement on the question, and no law to protect him in the enjoyment of that property? We think not, and in this opinion we are sustained by many of the leading papers both North and South.

The N. Y. Courier, edited by James Watson Webb, one of the shrewdest and ablest Whig papers in the Union, while it opposes the Bill on the ground that the Compromise of 1820 was a contract and therefore irrevocable, candidly says:

"Practically, we believe, it will make little difference whether slavery is or is not excluded from the Nebraska territory by the force of the Compromise. We consider that the same considerations which Mr. WEBSTER presented with such force in regard to the natural impracticability of successfully establishing slavery in New Mexico, apply with equal power to Nebraska. Every thing too indicates that the territory will be settled by a class of pioneers, whose past associations and whose conceptions of their own interests will make them altogether averse to the adoption of the institution. The difference in the case of Missouri must not be forgotten. Slavery was already an institution of Missouri when it was ceded to this country. It had interwoven itself with society, and could not have been easily dislodged. The immigrants, after the annexation, went, knowing that they would find slavery, and were prepared for it; and, by virtue of this, slavery there has lived, and grown with the growth of the State. To establish slavery from the very start in Nebraska, simultaneously with the flowing in of great numbers of population from the Northern States and from Europe, would be found a very different business."

The New Orleans Bulletin, known far and wide as a paper of marked ability, reflecting the sentiments of a great portion of the South, in speaking of the new territory, says:

"Nebraska is too far north ever to become a slave State. There is an insurmountable natural law that prevents the extension of human servitude in that direction. Therefore human legislation on the subject is perfectly futile, so far as practical results are involved. The people of Maine might permit slavery, and any man who would invest one hundred thousand dollars in negroes, and take them to that State would find himself bankrupt in five years. The same reasoning applies with equal force to all the more Northern States and Territories. All restrictions must be done away with, and no danger of slave encroachments feared."

## Canadian Monarchy.

It appears from the papers, that Canada is to be made a Vice Royalty with a member of the house of Hanover for its sovereign. Prince George, of Cambridge it is supposed will be the Viceroy.—Should this be true, there is great cause for serious reflection. The establishment of a monarchy on the American Continent, is to be deprecated by every American. Even to us, the erection of a monarchy within a stone's throw of our own shores, is a matter to be regretted. But to the people of Canada, this shuts out all hope of freedom, and furnishes to them, a ruler from British royalty, who has no sympathies nor feelings in common with the people which he governs.

This is doubtless an attempt of Great Britain to consolidate her powers in North America. But we will not believe, that Canada will sit tamely down, and quietly submit to shackles being placed upon her limbs that will perhaps forever fetter her political action and compel her to pay tribute to the British government.

## The Fruit Ripening.

The Washington Star says an impression is rapidly beginning to pervade the minds of public men in Washington, that we are destined ere the close of the present session of Congress, to receive tenders from Spain for the sale of Cuba.—This idea is based on the belief that the talk of a Coup d'etat at Madrid will surely soon come off, to be followed by anything but very friendly relations between Spain and England for some time, and by such a state of affairs throughout that country, as will render it necessary for the concentration at home of nearly all the troops the new Spanish government may have at command. The new government too, are expected to want money. While it is well known that at this time Spain cannot borrow a dollar from any of the capitalists of the Old World, it is also conceived among members of Congress, that a really revolutionary government there will find it even more difficult to obtain funds on the other side of the Atlantic, while the prejudice of European stock-jobbers run so strong against violent changes in governmental affairs anywhere.

## Ohio Legislature—Its Progress.

Six weeks have elapsed since the Legislature convened. How much has been accomplished! What important measure has been proposed, discussed and adopted? When do our legislators propose to finish up the business of the session? Is the election of an United States Senator to occupy half of an entire session? Do members of the Legislature suppose that the people elect them and send them to the capital merely to gather up the small change belonging to the State to the tune of four dollars a day? If that is the delusion under which our Solons are laboring, we will try to dispel the hallucination by stating briefly of what we think the people require at the hands of the Legislature, and what they do not care any thing about.

In the first place, we would suggest, that we require but little legislation, but what we have should be important. There is no danger so much to be feared in a government like ours, as that of too much Legislation. The less a people are governed the greater is the extent of their liberty. All laws are restrictive or prohibitory, and necessarily curtail the freedom of the governed. Hence the objection to too much legislation. Our legislators, one would think, are of opinion that they can best subvert the interest of their constituency by a series of fine-spun theories, done up in milk and water speeches about patriotism, political economy and all that sort of clap-trap. Interesting young gentlemen who feel that the pillars of government rest upon precarious shoulders, can look an imaginary crisis in the face with a rigid stoicism that would do credit to a philosopher, and who go into spasms over long-winded speeches that are never read except by the proof reader, and are so flat and tepid that, compared with them, "dish-water would sparkle like champagne."

Now, that sort of buncombe may be very fascinating to those who appreciate that kind of amusement, but to those who pay for all the fiddling and take no part in the dance, it may be proper to observe that a slight interest would be felt as to how long the ball should be kept up.

We are not of those who consider that, because a majority of the members of the present Legislature are Democrats, that it is a regular specific against stupidity and "pure cussedness." We are willing to see a fair and impartial criticism, and where necessary requires it, a proper castigation. There is too much fostering and encouraging the faults and derelictions of one's own party, that should be avoided. Whenever we discover any thing that needs amendment or correction, we should do our duty fearlessly at once, and not stop to ask the delinquent to what sect or party he belongs.

## Railroads vs Merchants.

Mr. Scott of Stark, has introduced a bill in the legislature, to confine railroads companies, to the prosecution of their legitimate business—namely, transportation of passengers and freight. The first section prohibits railroad company from erecting or keeping through any of its offices or agents, any tavern, eating house or place of entertainment at any of its depots, stations or watering places, within this State—or from engaging in the sale of merchandise on commission or otherwise, under the penalty of forfeiting all right, title and interest it may have to any building or lands so used as aforesaid.

The second section prevents Railroad Companies from buying or holding any lands &c., beyond the amount necessary for carrying on its legitimate business.

The third section prohibits any person in the employ of any railroad Company, from purchasing goods to be transported on any railroad for the purpose of sale or merchandise, under a penalty of the forfeiture of the goods.

We are in favor of this bill, Mr. Scott has doubtless seen the effect of Railroads monopolizing the business of our Merchants at a fearful odds against private enterprise, and has taken a summary remedy to prevent it in future.

WAR INEVITABLE.—The London correspondent of the N. Y. Herald, under date of the 20th ult., states that despatches from St. Petersburg affirm beyond question that Nicholas promptly and violently rejected the mediation of the four powers. This would seem to settle beyond doubt the question of a general war in Europe and Asia. If the news be true, and the conflict be actually begun, it will be the most sanguinary war the world ever saw.

HIGH PRICES.—Should the war news prove true, says the Pittsburgh Post, it is expected the prices of provisions will go up so high that people will have to get up on their tables to read them.

God help the poor of Europe, as well as of this country. Much suffering must ensue if prices are to go higher than the present rates.

The latest news from Europe indicates that the deficiency of crops and supply is even greater than was previously believed. If to this is added the certainty of a general war, prices will probably go up further yet. But, that they will reach points predicted by some sanguine speculators, we don't believe.

## Breadstuffs.

The New York Journal of Commerce of the 7th inst., says that a "sale of 100 bbls extra family flour, all of one of the best known brands of Genesee, was made to-day at \$11.50 per bbl., which would bring, at retail, up to \$12. This is the highest rate reached in this city since 1837, when corresponding qualities were sold at \$12.25, and the riot occurred at Aart's building, in West St. There is more difference now, however, between the price of leading extras and common brands of superfine flour, the latter selling in some cases as low as \$9 per bbl. Most of the family flour used in this city and in New England, consists of fancy and extra brands, worth at present from \$9.75, to \$11 by the quantity, and of course retailing at 75 cents, or \$1 per bbl above this range: The stock of flour in this city is small, but the railroads can bring sufficient for our consumption, and a small surplus for New England. We cannot, however, spare much for foreign orders, and any considerable purchase for export would advance at once beyond the reach of shippers."

✧ The Nebraska bill is still under discussion in the U. S. Senate.

✧ The cholera is raging in the West Indies: At St. Thomas, fifteen hundred persons died between the first and fifteenth of January.

## Teachers' Institute.

In compliance with the call of last week, a number of citizens met at the council room on Friday evening last, to take into consideration the proposition to hold an Institute in this place in April next, in conjunction with the teachers of Stark and Summit counties.

Lyman W. Hall, Esq., was appointed Chairman, and Benj. Newell Secretary of the meeting.

After consultation upon the subject, a committee of arrangements was appointed consisting of the following persons:

Benj. Newell, O. P. Brown, Esq., and Wm. Coolman, Esq.

The committee were instructed to correspond with teachers of the above named counties, and others with reference to the object of the meeting.

On motion of Rev. W. D. Sanders, the Secretary was instructed to furnish the proceedings of the meeting, for publication in the papers of the village, and the meeting was adjourned.

BENJ. NEWELL, Sec.  
Ravenna, February 11, 1854.

VOTE ON MR. CHASE'S AMENDMENT.—In the proceedings of the United States Senate on the 6th inst., as reported in the Washington Globe, we find the vote upon an amendment offered by Mr. Chase, the 14th section of the Nebraska bill, by striking out the words:

"Was superseded by the principles of the legislation of 1850, commonly called the compromise measures, and—"

So that the clause will read:

"That the constitution and all laws of the United States which are not locally inapplicable, shall have the same force and effect within the said Territory of Nebraska as elsewhere within the United States, except the eighth section of the act preparatory to the admission of Missouri into the Union, approved March 6, 1820."

The vote being taken upon the amendment, it was rejected—yeas 13, nays 30, as follows:

Yeas—Messrs. Allen, Cass, Chase, Everett, Fish, Foot, Hamlin, Seward, Smith, Stuart, Sumner, and Walker—13.

Nays—Messrs. Adams, Atchison, Butler, Bayard, Bell, Benjamin, Bright, Broadhead, Badger, Clay, Dawson, Dixon, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Geyer, Hunter, Jones of Tennessee, Mallory, Mason, Morris, Pett, Sebastian, Shields, Thompson of Kentucky, Toucey, Welles and Williams—30.

Mr. Cass and others entered into explanations on the supersede of the Missouri Compromise. Mr. Cass would much rather say at once that the Missouri Compromise is unconstitutional, and therefore would prefer saying so directly, in so many words.

JURISDICTION OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE.—The Attorney General of Ohio has decided that Justices of the Peace have no jurisdiction in cases of Lunacy, since the taking effect of the Probate Code, on the first day of July last.

ELECTION OF GOVERNOR OF MAINE.—Augusta, Me., Feb. 4.—The Senate of Maine this day elected Hon. Mr. Crosby, (Whig) Governor. The vote stood—Crosby, 16; Merrill, (Dem.) 15.—Crosby received the vote of 7 Whigs and 9 Pillsbury Democrats.

✧ William Pitt Fessenden has been elected U. S. Senator from the State of Maine.

✧ Resolutions have passed the House of Representatives, in favor of removing the U. S. Mint from Philadelphia to New York, and establishing a branch at Cincinnati.

✧ Geo. Lippard the celebrated American novelist is dead. His disease was an affection of the heart.

GOV. GORMAN ON BANKS.—If the new Territory of Minnesota is to be cursed with banking institutions, it will be despite of the efforts to the contrary of her present Democratic Executive, Gov. GORMAN. In his late annual message to the Legislative Assembly, occurs the following paragraph: "Where the field of speculation is large, and the use of money demands a high rate of interest, the temptation for creating banks to circulate paper money is, and has always been, in every section of the Union, very great. The school of politics to which I have always had the honor to belong, has opposed upon principle the establishment of such banking institutions, and it would be repeating the well established doctrine of the country, to attempt a re-argument of this question. I therefore content myself by saying, that no law creating a bank within this Territory, for circulating a paper currency, can receive my official sanction."

## Later from California.

New York, February 9.

The Star of the West arrived to-day at 12 o'clock, with 400 passengers and \$750,000. She brings intelligence from California to the afternoon of the 16th ult.

The ship of war Albany at San Juan, awaiting despatches from the Minister.

The following are the principal consignees to whom the gold is forwarded: Duncan & Sherman \$200,000; American Exchange Bank, \$185,000; Adams & Co., \$122,000; Drexel & Co., \$75,000; Nelson & Tobison, \$75,000; Wells, Fargo & Co., \$60,000.

Further advices from Lower California state that when Col. Watkins arrived with reinforcements to Col. Walker, the latter was besieged at Ensenada. The besiegers were afterwards repulsed. Lieut. McKibbin and a private named McCormick, were killed, and five others were wounded.

The mining business is depressed. The weather has been dry, but heavy rains are beginning to fall.

The markets are completely stagnant, and the depression unexampled. Clear Pork is selling at \$20; Mess Pork \$15.50; choice Butter 23; Coal advanced; Lackawanna 39; Rio Coffee 11@12.

Col. Watkins has been made Vice President of the new Republic.

LATER.—Col. Walker was encamped at Ensenada, and was in peaceful possession of the country. All the Mexican neighborhood had submitted, and asked Walker's protection, promising neutrality.

## BALTIMORE, February 11.

The New Orleans papers of Saturday and Sunday are received, containing full details of the great fire. The loss of life was greater than at first reported. Twenty-four slaves on board the steamer Charles Belcher all perished. The Picayune states the total loss at forty. One of the passengers of the Belcher who lost his mother and sister, became frantic and fatally stabbed himself. The cargo of the Belcher was valued at \$200,000. The steamer Eagle was burned on the 29th ult., on the Chattahoochee. Loss \$100,000. No lives lost.

The Picayune announces a general rise on the Mississippi, and the opening of all the upper rivers except the Missouri and Red rivers. Boats are coming in with large cargoes of cotton.

## Annual Report of the Auditor of State.

The topics embraced in this able report are of such general interest to the people of the State that we feel disposed to give as full an abstract as our limits will permit.

The Auditor suggests an amendment to the existing laws requiring county Treasurers to append to their annual notices clear and intelligible statements, setting forth the amount of taxes levied on the duplicate for the current year for the support of the State Government, for the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt, for the support of the State Common Schools, for defraying county expenses, for the repair of roads, for keeping the poor, for building of bridges, for township expenses, and for each other object of a general character. Such a statement, the Auditor believes, would remove much error and dissatisfaction in the minds of many tax-payers, and at the same time enable the public to see for themselves the amount of taxes which are to be collected for each specific object, and to apply the appropriate remedy in whatever quarter a needless expenditure occurs.

In reference to the tax on brokerage and private banking, Auditor vindicates the law as it is, and his construction of it, with a clearness and vigor that will be difficult to combat by those who are at issue with him. He says:

In the assessment of the taxable property employed by unincorporated bankers and brokers, it has been found difficult in some counties, and impossible in others, to secure such a compliance with the law as its "true interpretation" is believed to require. Brokers who are conducting their business exclusively on borrowed capital, amounting in many instances to several hundred thousand dollars—claim that they are wholly exempt from taxation; others who own a small capital of their own, and do business on a large line of deposits, claim the right of deducting their deposits. These claims are entirely irreconcilable with the equality of taxation which the law and the Constitution seek to attain. The laboring husbandman who dwells in the soil for a livelihood, is taxed on the whole value of his farm, although he has purchased it on credit. The merchant who owns not a dollar of capital, is taxable on the full value of the goods which he has bought on borrowed money, and which he keeps on hand for the purpose of gain. So also with the broker; the law taxes him on the value of all moneys which he buys and sells in the line of his business. They constitute his stock in trade, and although obtained on credit, they have no better right to be exempt from taxes than have the dry goods or groceries of a merchant which were bought with borrowed money. The bank notes placed in the hands of a banker for his individual use and benefit, are no longer the property of their former owner. He has divested himself of their ownership, and has therefor taxable not on the money, but on the credit which he has received on the books of the banker, or in the shape of a certificate of deposit. Under the old Constitution bankers and brokers were taxed on no portion of their capital, provided it was no more than equal to the amount of their indebtedness. Whilst this immunity was allowed to the broker, the landholder who was still in debt for his farm, was allowed no deduction for the value of his farm. The existence of this distinction was without a sound reason to sustain it, and the new Constitution would have failed to effect what it was expected to accomplish, had it not wisely guarded against the continuance of the unjust discrimination against real property, which had been so long and so justly a source of complaint under the former Constitution.

In 1833, the taxable valuation of real estate amounted to \$363,490,901; under the present valuation, \$553,661,109—showing an increased valuation of one hundred and ninety-five millions.

The report recommends that personal property be made subject to the same penalties for delinquency in its payment of taxes as are imposed on real estate. The justice and expediency of this suggestion are apparent. The law as it now stands, does not require the taxes remaining delinquent on bonds, mortgages, and stock, to be carried forward on the duplicate of the succeeding year. The right of the Legislature to make a discrimination between the two classes of property, is a point worthy of consideration. The estimated receipts into the treasury during the fiscal year ending 15th November, 1854, \$3,700,000 00 Add balance in treasury Nov. 15th, 1853, 762,830 50

The estimated disbursements are as follows:

Ordinary expenses of the State Government,	\$373,349 00
New State House, New Lunatic Asylum, &c.,	200,000 00
Interest on foreign and domestic debt,	844,556 13
Interest on Irredeemable Debt, (being School Fund),	116,837 85
State Common School Fund,	1,080,000 00
District School Library Fund,	54,000 00
Superintendence and repairs of Public Works,	493,000 00
Redemption of Domestic Bonds, (past due),	2,443 70
	\$3,313,186 77

\$1,320,643 78

The duty of prescribing the rate of taxation for two years will devolve upon the present Legislature.

The grand duplicate of 1854 will vary but little from a gross valuation of \$800,000,000.

The appropriations of 1853 exceeded the means provided for their payment.

In the Auditor of State's last annual report, the attention of the Legislature was invited to the necessity of limiting the appropriations of public money for the uses of the State, to the amount of general revenue which would accrue under the tax levy of the previous year. Notwithstanding this suggestion, the amount of money appropriated at the last session of the General Assembly, for the expenses of the State Government for the year 1853, together with the unexpended balance of previous appropriations, was considerably greater than the revenue which had been provided to meet it. Under these circumstances, the Auditor of State had but one of two courses to adopt; first, to refuse to issue drafts on the Treasury for a portion of the appropriations; or second, to supply the deficit in the general revenue by converting to its use the requisite amount of the taxes which had been expressly levied and collected for the payment of the principal and interest of the public debt. Good faith towards those by whom the taxes were paid, and the plain injunction of the Constitution (article twelve, section five) forbade the course last indicated. The Auditor felt bound, therefore, to withhold all drafts which could only be met by an application of public funds, different from that contemplated by the law under which they were collected. For this reason, only a portion of the appropriations made for the erection of new Lunatic Asylums, and for the improvement of the old Lunatic Asylum, and for the further